



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- Brian Sewell, IM Project Manager, oversaw Aviat Network's subcontractor during completion of fuel system modifications to the Northern Tier generators this week.
- PSIC-3 microwave is now cold installed at the Sawtell, Duck Creek, VC Pass, Sierra, Red Mountain and Antelope sites. That leaves three sites remaining for installation work.
- Trunking antennas were moved to the north side of the Pinkham site tower in Lincoln County to increase coverage in the Eureka area. A big thank you goes out to the Lincoln County Sheriff's office for its assistance in measuring signal strength.

## PSSB Highlights

- The public is invited to attend a 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee meeting in Bozeman on Tues., Oct. 12 at 2:00 pm in the University Room of the Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane. Comments and recommendations on the draft plan are encouraged. Visit [http://pssb.mt.gov/700\\_mhz\\_plan.mcpx](http://pssb.mt.gov/700_mhz_plan.mcpx) for more info.

## IM Finance Committee Addresses Tough Issues

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The major accomplishment of the IM Finance Committee meeting in Helena on Mon., Oct. 4 was approval of the Short-Term Proposal to Establish a User Fee System document. Several issues were discussed and clarified as follows:

- Providing reimbursements for site maintenance costs to local jurisdictions will not be possible until the Interim Study Commission decides and implements a long-term funding mechanism.
- A conservative estimate of users was used in the formulas for determining expected revenue.
- If a larger number of users come on the system than anticipated, then surplus funds can be re-allocated to site owners as decided upon by the IMPD.
- Local jurisdictions are eligible for grant monies to cover one year of user fees. DES has verified that user fees are an eligible grant item and will assist with funding requests.

Federal law enforcement agencies are currently approaching the IM about using the statewide radio

system. With the adoption of this proposal, the IM will have a consistent fee system to present to interested agencies.

In other business, IM Finance Committee members reviewed progress on task assignments, examined the checking account register from Aug. 6 through Oct. 1, analyzed the All-Source Funding Report, and reviewed the 2011 IM Budget.

IM Executive Director Kevin Bruski provided details on nine Purchase Orders that have been issued since the last meeting. He explained the IM goal of addressing complete site build-out details—such as the need for frequency work—before issuing any build-out contracts. In addition, he reported that efforts are consistently being made to provide work, when appropriate, to local contractors.

The next IM Finance Committee meeting will be held on Mon., Nov. 8 from 9:00 am to noon at the offices of Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena.

## IM Project Directors Approve Short-Term User Fee Proposal

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

At its Tues., Oct. 5 meeting in Helena, the board of Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) modified and approved a short-term proposal to establish a user fee system for the IM. They agreed to implement the fees starting Jan. 1, 2011 and to fund them from eligible grant monies. Subsequent years of user fees will be the responsibility of local jurisdictions. The initial user fee on which the 2011 IM budget is based is \$100 per unit, and the IMPD will analyze the need for fee adjustments on an annual basis. All users, (local, state, tribal, and federal) will pay the same user fee.

The long-term IM Business Plan adopted by the IMPD earlier this year (which is scheduled to take effect in 2013 following the legislative session) calls for fees collected from local, state, tribal and federal users to be utilized for a variety of needs, including system administration and reimbursements back to site owners for maintenance expenses. This interim proposal, focusing on maintenance and administration, will fill essential needs in the IM budget until the full business plan can be implemented.

Revenues collected from user fees may be used for discretionary purposes and be applied to budget and line items not eligible for grant monies or legislative appropriations. This short-term plan will

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sustain activities and development of the IM Project until a long-term sustainability plan is adopted.

The IMPD also approved its 2011 Budget, which includes special provisions for assisting Lewis and Clark County with funding for the technical support it provides to the IM. Sheriff Leo Dutton and Helena Fire Dept. Assistant Chief J.R. Feucht explained that the County's public safety mill levy creates special circumstances that negatively impact user fee implementation.

In other action, the board approved a proposal to move the second master controller to the Richland County Law and Justice site.

The next IMPD meeting will be Tues., Nov. 9 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at a location to be announced.

### Supporters Recognized for Service

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Two IM Project Director (IMPD) board members were recognized for their service and leadership to the IM Project at the Tues., Oct. 5 meeting of the IMPD. IMPD Chair Alan Michaels, Glendive Police Chief, presented recognition plaques to Ed Auker, Bighorn County DES, and Glacier County Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff.

The plaques recognized them for their excellence in leadership, their service as Project Directors and their courage in developing the mission of Interoperability Montana.

In addition, Mark Canton, Motorola, who will be retiring this month, was recognized and thanked for his professionalism and support of the IM Project. His replacement, Ron Spencer, also was introduced.

The IM appreciates the wealth of leadership and service it receives from a wide variety of resource people across the state.



IMPD Chair Alan Michaels presents appreciation awards to Ed Auker, Wayne Dusterhoff and Mark Canton in Helena on Oct. 5, 2010.

### Upcoming Meetings

- **Mon. -Tues., Oct. 11-12**  
Call Taker Training for Child Abductions - Free Tuition  
Bozeman • 8:00 – 5:00 pm  
Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane  
E-mail Susan Bomstad at [sbomstad@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:sbomstad@co.missoula.mt.us).
- **Tues., Oct. 11**  
Region 25 700 MHz Regional Planning Meeting  
Bozeman • 2:00 – 5:00 pm  
Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane
- **Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 12-14**  
Montana Chapter of APCO Conference  
Bozeman • Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane  
[http://www.mtapco.org/2010\\_Conference.html](http://www.mtapco.org/2010_Conference.html)
- **Fri., Oct. 15**  
Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force (TERT) Team Leader Course; Natalie Duran, Instructor  
Bozeman • 8:00 – 5:00 pm  
Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane  
E-mail Susan Bomstad at [sbomstad@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:sbomstad@co.missoula.mt.us).
- **Thurs., Oct. 21**  
Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm • Location to be Announced
- **Thurs., Oct. 21**  
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am – noon  
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Thurs., Oct. 21**  
Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 9:00 am Tech. Cmte. • 10:00 am Consortium  
Yellowstone County EOC, 2305 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. North
- **Mon., Oct. 25**  
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**  
Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 am - noon  
IM Offices, 2717 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**  
State Agency Radio Users Task Force  
Helena • 9:00 am – 10:30 am  
Rm. 109, Old Livestock Building, 1310 Lockey St.
- **Tues.-Wed., Oct. 26- 28**  
Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Course  
Big Timber • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Carnegie Public Library, 314 McLeod Street  
Sweet Grass County 9-1-1; Call 800-363-9127 to register
- **Mon-Tues., Nov. 8-9**  
Montana Independent Telecom Systems (MITS) Symposium  
Helena • Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Dr.  
<http://www.mitstel.com/Symposium/>
- **Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 16-18**  
Western Border Interoperability Working Group  
Regina, SK • Hosted by the Ministry of Corrections,  
Public Safety and Policing  
RCMP Depot, 6101 Dewdney Ave.  
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